

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 323 787

FL 018 844

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TITLE A Proposal To Develop the Axiological Aspect in Onomasiological Dictionaries.
PUB DATE Apr 90
NOTE 24p.; Paper presented at the World Congress of Applied Linguistics sponsored by the International Association of Applied Linguistics (9th, Thessaloniki, Greece, April 15-21, 1990).
PUB TYPE Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Classification; *Definitions; *Dictionaries; *English; Lexicology
IDENTIFIERS *Axiology

ABSTRACT

It is argued that English dictionaries currently provide evaluative information in addition to descriptive information about the words they contain, and that this aspect of dictionaries should be developed and expanded on. First, the historical background and distribution of the axiological parameter in English-language onomasiological dictionaries were investigated. Second, the lexical units included in the lexical or conceptual fields, dimensions, groups, etc. of onomasiological dictionaries were collected and the non-primary or irrelevant lexical units were excluded. Third, alphabetically-ordered monolingual semasiological English-language dictionaries were used to obtain semantic definitions of the affected lexical units, including valencies and other syntactic or pragmatic information, and fourth, exhaustive specifications were made of the semes, classemes, sememes, virtuememes, arguments, satellites, subcategorization, etc. of each affected lexical item, followed by a contrastive analysis of the units belonging to the same lexical field or dimension. Fifth, a proposal to reorganize the traditional classifications of the axiological parameter and the synoptical or ideological sections of the onomasiological dictionaries is developed. Finally, the inclusion of an axiological formula within the lexicographic definition of each lexical item is proposed and elaborated. (MSE)

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A PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP THE AXIOLOGICAL ASPECT IN
ONOMASIOLOGICAL DICTIONARIES.

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1.-Introduction.

Over the years, in Europe as well as in America, philosophers and psychologists have been seriously concerned about the questions of value and axiology. They proposed classifications of values for various purposes (Some examples will be offered in chapter two). However, for linguistics (especially lexical semantics), a systematic and consistent introduction of the axiological parameter in natural languages is missing (Cf. krzeszowski 1985). There have been contributions, but scarce and based on extralinguistic principles, e.g. onomasiological dictionaries (Roget, 1852; McArthur, 1981; for the English language). The most coherent classification, as far as I know, has been provided by S. Stati (1979): He provided the most complete intuitive classification of the axiological component in linguistics (using French adjectives), but he lacks an intensive inductive study of the vocabulary, according to its hierarchical arrangement, and the application of a model for syntactic and pragmatic analysis.

The aim of this paper is to provide a coherent and systematic classification of the axiological parameter by means

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of adjectival affected terms in the English language, in order to improve the description of lexical units in onomasiological, or even semasiological dictionaries, although it is taken for granted that such parameter is culturally dependent and need not be universal.

For a better understanding of how this classification will be finally made, we have to take several steps and introduce a relatively unexplored area of linguistics: classematics. This new branch, although basically sketched by E. Coseriu (1967); W. Busse (1974), García Hernández (1976), and especially Martín Mingorance (1987) have overtly brought to attention the importance of this area for a better understanding of the functioning of language; mostly the interaction between the pragmatic, the semantic, the syntactic, and the lexical component. This theory has been originally inspired by the term *classeme*, which in Coseriu's lexematics terminology could be defined as a specific kind of *seme* which is able to function also outside of lexical fields or throughout a series of lexical fields (Coseriu, 1967). However, this term has been introduced into semantics by B. Pottier (1964), and previously intuited by Hattori (1956).

A better explanation of what a *classeme* really is and how it works has been provided by Prof. Martín Mingorance (1987:377-78): "In the paradigmatic or selection axis, lexemes are semantically distinguished from one another by means of at least one "seme" or minimal distinctive feature. (...) At a higher level in their

semantic structure lexemes are constituted, in the lexematic approach to structural semantics, by a series of features of a more general and abstract nature, classemes, with a double function:

- Semantic: they act as classificatory and delimiting features at dimension or even at field level;
- Syntactic: they control the combinatory properties of lexical items".

In the light of these definitions, our paper is a practical application of those principles to what we consider to be one of the most basic classemes affecting a large amount of the open lexical classes: evaluation. Coseriu (1968), again, intuited this as follows: "... For adjectives there may be classes like "positive", "negative", which justify copulative combinations as It. "bello e buono", "grande e grosso", "piccolo e brutto", etc., (adjectives which belong, in each case, to the same class), or adversative combinations as Sp. "pobre pero honrado", It. "povero ma onesto" (adjectives which belong to different classes)...". S. Stati (1979:67), influenced by Ch. Bally also concludes: "On a depuis longtemps remarqué que certains adjectifs désignent des propriétés positives, tandis que certains autres se réfèrent à des défauts: il y a donc des adjectifs laudatifs (ou mélioratifs) et péjoratifs". Later, T.P. Krzeszowski (1985) criticized the excessive importance attributed historically to the "true-false" polar axis to the detriment of the "good-bad" one, which, in his opinion, is the most important parameter in linguistics. He

arrived at that conclusion when, analysing a large number of sentences and words, he found out that every lexical item is assessable on the g-b scale. Some lexical items are situated close to the "good" pole, e.g. love, care, grow, delight, some are situated close to the "bad" pole, e.g. hate, abhor, die, complain, while others are situated at various distances from the two poles, with a considerable number of lexical items displaying no ostensible charge in plus or in minus, e.g. appear, declare, compare, etc.

Finally, Prof. Martin Mingorance (1987:380-81), after distinguishing different kinds of classemes according to the pragmatic, semantic, syntactic, syntactic-semantic components, he concluded: "the number and type of pragmatic classemes will depend on further research, but stylistic labels (diatopic, diaphasic, diastratic features) and such elements as "norm", "focus", "speaker's evaluation", "aesthetic norm", etc. constitute a kind of features which will condition the choice of specific lexemes according to the type of communicative situation".

In the belief that the existence of the axiological classeme has been sufficiently proved, we will next expound the steps we have taken to provide a coherent and systematic classification of this classeme by means of the exhaustive analysis of adjectival affected terms, taking into account their polar, gradual, qualitative and hierarchical characteristics:

1. Consultation of non-linguistic axiological classifications and the relevant set lists of English language

onomasiological dictionaries to check the historical background and distribution of this parameter (Intuitive-deductive operation).

2. First sight Collection of the lexical units included in the lexical or conceptual fields, dimensions, groups, etc. of onomasiological dictionaries and exclusion of the non-primary or irrelevant lexical units (Intuitive-inductive operation).

3. Use of alphabetically ordered monolingual semasiological dictionaries of the English language in order to obtain semantic definitions of the affected lexical units, including valencies and other syntactic or pragmatic informations, if they can be found (Empirical evidence).

4. Exhaustive specification of the semes, classemes, sememes, virtuememes, arguments, satellites, subcategorization, etc. of each affected lexical item, followed by a contrastive analysis of the units belonging to the same lexical field or dimension in order to fix the archilexemes, archisememes, content-differentiating features and hierarchical relations among units. At this stage, dimensions, subdimensions, groups, subgroups, etc. could be roughly defined. The whole process implies both Coseriu's lexematics and S. Dik's functional grammar principles by means of structural lexical analyses (cf. Coseriu 1977, 1978 and Geckeler 1971) and "stepwise" lexical decomposition (cf. Dik 1978a, 1978b), as proposed by Martin Mingorance (cf. Martin Mingorance 1984). (Analytical-inductive operation).

5. Proposal to reorganize the traditional classifications of the axiological parameter and the synoptical or ideological sections of the onomasiological dictionaries, once that lexical units and lexical fields have been redefined on an empirical basis by means of inductive analyses instead of general, deductive or impressionistic intuitions.

6. Having specified the units both quantitative and qualitatively in onomasiological and semasiological dictionaries, we would propose the inclusion of an axiological formula -as will be explained in chapter six - within the lexicographical definition of each lexical item. This would represent the explicit recovery of the pragmatic classeme of inherent evaluation that we had always intuited, but did not specify clearly in unit definitions; even though we admit that, in current dictionaries, there are stylistic labels showing attitude such as appreciative, derogatory, euphemistic, humorous, etc.

2.- Consultation of non-linguistic axiological classifications.

In this chapter we only intend to communicate an elementary idea of the extralinguistic axiological classifications made by some philosophers for the sake of getting a clear picture of how the problem was tackled in the past.

Firstly, let's have a look at some philosophers from different tendencies:

A. NEOKANTIAN SCHOOL: Hugo Munsterberg (1908:80)

PURE VALUES

LOGICAL VALUES: A. VALUES OF EXISTENCE (Things, characters, Assessments). B. VALUES OF CONNECTION (Nature, History, Reason).

AESTHETIC VALUES: A. VALUES OF UNITY (Harmony, Love, Happiness). B. VALUES OF BEAUTY (Plastic arts, Poetry, Music)

ETHICAL VALUES: A. VALUES OF EVOLUTION (Growth, Progress, Self-growth). B. VALUES OF QUALIFIED PRODUCTION (Economy, Law, Ethics).

METAPHYSICAL VALUES: A. DIVINE VALUES (Creation, Revelation, Redemption, Salvation) B. FUNDAMENTAL VALUES (Universe, Mankind, Supra-ego).

VALUES OF LIFE (External world, Others world, Internal world).

VALUES OF CULTURE (External world, Others world, Internal world).

Inspired by Fichte, he tries to derive all reality and all value from an original primary action. In his opinion, we establish all values. Even from a philosophical point of view, he mixes values, assessments, goods, and beings, requiring a more strict methodological accuracy.

B. PHENOMENOLOGICAL AXIOLOGY: Max Scheler (1913-1916)

He introduces the idea of hierarchy, intuitively ordered, within the classification of values. His main endeavour was to justify that hierarchy of values, which depended on the degree of deep, radical long-lasting human satisfaction produced.

First step (lowest): **Pleasantness/Unpleasantness.**

Second step: **Vital values** (e.g. physical strength, death, old age).

Third step: **Spiritual values:** a. Aesthetic (Ugly, Beautiful, Sublime, Ridiculous). b. Just/Unjust. c. Pure knowledge of truth (Philosophy, better than natural sciences).

Fourth step (highest): **Divine versus Profane** (happiness, despair). They possess an absolute value.

This hierarchical order is a moral imperative for Scheler. The Ethical Value is not included because this is the value that builds up the hierarchy chosen.

In Spain, influenced by Max Scheler, Ortega y Gasset (1923) disseminates the German thinker's classification, but making some additions and corrections. He comes closer to intuitive extralinguistic classifications and approaches the logical order of onomasiological dictionaries. The polar nature of the oppositions and the importance of axiology for various disciplines have been his outstanding contributions.

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE VALUES

1. **USEFUL** (able/unable; cheap/expensive; abundant/scarce).
2. **VITAL** (healthy/ill; select/vulgar; energetic/idle; strong/weak).

3. SPIRITUAL: a. Intellectual (knowledge/mistake; exact/approximate; evident/probable; etc.) b. Moral (good/bad; benevolent/cruel; just/unjust; scrupulous/indolent; loyal/disloyal). c. Aesthetic (beautiful/ugly; graceful/coarse; elegant/inelegant; harmonious/unharmonious).
4. RELIGIOUS (holy/profane; divine/diabolic; supreme/derived; miraculous/mechanical).

There are other schools and philosophers who have provided interesting contributions to the theory of value, but they will not be treated here for reasons of time.

3.- First sight Collection of the lexical units included in one sample dimension from onomasiological dictionaries and exclusion of the non-primary or irrelevant lexical units.
(Dimension: Experiencing fear).

EXPERIENCING FEAR.

Longman Lexicon: Afraid; Frightened; Scared; Scary; Fearful; Terrified; Alarmed; Panicky; Nervous; Apprehensive; Timid; Shy; Petrified. (F125 adjectives: afraid and apprehensive, p. 262).

Roget's Thesurus of English Words and Phrases: Afraid; Frightened; Funky; Panicky; Overawed; in fear; in trepidation; in a flap; in a panic; Terror-crazed; Panic-stricken; Dismayed; Flabbergasted; Frozen; Petrified; Stunned; Appalled; Horrified; Aghast; Horror-struck; Awe-struck; Unmanned; Frightened to death; White as a sheet. (854. Fear - Adj., p.339)

We also looked up other lexicographic works to support our

selection.

As a brief sample, in our analysis we shall only include the "core" units and exclude the rest for various reasons:

Exclusion of irrelevant lexical units (Reasons):

- Non-primary lexical units: in fear; in trepidation; in a flap; in a panic; Frozen (with) terror/fear; Terror-crazed; Panic-stricken; Horror-struck; Awe-struck; Unmanned; Frightened to death; White as a sheet.
- Obsolete or unusual: Funky; Unmanned.
- Belonging to other lexical fields or dimensions: Timid; Shy; Stunned; Flabbergasted.
- Belonging to the dimension "Experiencing fear", but overlapped and combined with other dimensions: Alarmed; Nervous; Apprehensive; Overawed; Dismayed; Appalled; Horrified; Aghast.
- Belonging to the dimension "Causing fear": Scary.
- Units selected: Afraid, Scared, Fearful, Frightened, Panicky, Terrified, Petrified.

4.- Use of alphabetically ordered monolingual semasiological dictionaries of the English language in order to obtain semantic definitions of the affected lexical units, including valencies and other syntactic or pragmatic informations, if they can be found.

We obtained the definitions of the relevant units included later in the dimension "Experiencing Fear" from the Collins COBUILD English Language Dictionary and the Longman Dictionary of

Contemporary English. Even though not quoted above, valencies and complementation have been basically extracted from diverse sources, such as the BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English, the Van Dale Groot Woordenboek Engels-Nederlands, J.B. Heaton's Prepositions and Adverbial Particles, or T. Herbst's Untersuchungen zur Valenz englischer Adjektive und ihre Nominalisierungen.

5.- Exhaustive specification of the semes, classemes, sememes, virtuememes, arguments, satellites, subcategorization, etc. of each affected lexical item, followed by a contrastive analysis of the units belonging to the same lexical field or dimension in order to fix the archilexemes, archisememes, content-differentiating features and hierarchical relations among units of the two dimensions selected:

The classifications, descriptions and analyses offered below, as it has been explained above, are based on both Coseriu's lexematics and S. Dik's functional grammar principles by means of structural lexical analyses (cf. Coseriu 1977, 1978 and Geckeler 1971) and "stepwise" lexical decomposition (cf. Dik 1978a, 1978b), as proposed by Martin Mingorance (cf. Martin Mingorance 1984).

DIMENSION [€ FEAR] ⊂ [€ EMOTION]

DEFINIENS OF THE DIMENSION:

CAUSE ∨ [(x1: < ... > (x1)) Ergat. Stimulus

(x2: [EXPERIENCE v (x3: <+/- Hum.> (x3))Experienc.

(x4: <Phen: Fear> (x4)) Effectuated] (x2)) Ines. State.

SUBDIMENSION [EXPERIENCING FEAR] (The subdimension not
included below = Causing fear)

DEFINIENS OF THE SUBDIMENSION:

EXPERIENCE v [(x1: <+/- Hum.> (x1)) Experiencer
(x2: <Fear> (x2)) Phenomenon (x2)) Ines.
State.

ARCHILEXEME:

AFRAID (A) PR2 [(x1: <+/- Hum.> (x1)) Experiencer

{ (x2: pp (of) < ... > (x2)) Pot. influencer.
(x2: pp (for) < ... > (x2)) Object
(x2: TO-Inf. Clause <...> (x2)) Source
(x2: THAT-Clause <...> (x2)) Source }

def= EXPERIENCE v [(x1: <+/- Hum.> (x1)) Exp.
(x2: <Fear> (x2)) Phenomenon (x2)) Ines. State.
(y1: <Degree n: Medium a> (y2)) Manner
(y2: <Reason n: Danger n> (y2)) Reason
Pos.: Predicative. Reg.: Normal. Freq.: 4.

OTHER UNITS:

FRIGHTENED (A) PR2 [(x1: <+/- Hum.> (x1)) Experiencer

{ (x2: pp (of) < ... > (x2)) Pot. influencer.
(x2: pp (at) < ... > (x2)) Causer
(x2: pp (by) < ... > (x2)) Pot. Agent
(x2: TO-Inf. Clause <...> (x2)) Source }

[(x2: THAT-Clause <...> (x2)) Source])

def= AFRAID (A) ...

(y1: <Degree n: Medium a> (y2)) Manner

Pos.: Pred./Attrib. Reg.: Normal. Freq.: 3.

SCARED (A) PR2 [(x1: <+/- Hum.> (x1)) Experiencer

{ (x2: pp (of) < ... > (x2)) Pot. influencer.
(x2: pp (at) < ... > (x2)) Causer
(x2: TO-Inf. Clause <...> (x2)) Source
(x2: THAT-Clause <...> (x2)) Source }

def= AFRAID (A) ...

(y1: <Degree n: Medium a> (y2)) Manner

Pos.: Usu. Pred. Reg.: Normal. Freq.: 3.

FEARFUL 2 (A) PR2 [(x1: <+/- Hum.> (x1)) Experiencer

{ (x2: pp (of) < ... > (x2)) Pot. influencer.
(x2: pp (for) < ... > (x2)) Object
(x2: THAT-Clause <...> (x2)) Source }

def= AFRAID (A) ...

(y1: <Degree n: Medium a> (y2)) Manner

Pos.: Pred./Attrib. Reg.: Formal. Freq.: 2.

PANICKY (A) PR2 [(x1: <+/- Hum.> (x1)) Experiencer

(x2: pp (over) < ... > (x2)) Pot. influencer.]

def= AFRAID (A) ...

(y1: <Degree n: Maximum a> (y2)) Manner

(y2: <suddenly> (y2)) Manner

Pos.: Pred./Attrib. Reg.: Informal. Freq.: 1.

TERRIFIED (A) PR2 [(x1: <+/- Hum.> (x1)) Experiencer

{ (x2: pp (of) < ... > (x2)) Pot.influencer
(x2: pp (at) < ... > (x2)) Causer
(x2: pp (by) < ... > (x2)) Pot. Agent
(x2: THAT-Clause <...> (x2)) Source] }

def= AFRAID (A) ...

(y1: <Degree n: Maximum a> (y2)) Manner

Pos.: Pred./Attrib. Reg.: Normal. Freq.: 2.

PETRIFIED (A) PR2 [(x1: <+/- Hum.> (x1)) Experiencer

{ (x2: pp (with) < ... > (x2)) Causer
(x2: pp (at) < ... > (x2)) Causer
(x2: pp (by) < ... > (x2)) Pot. Agent] }

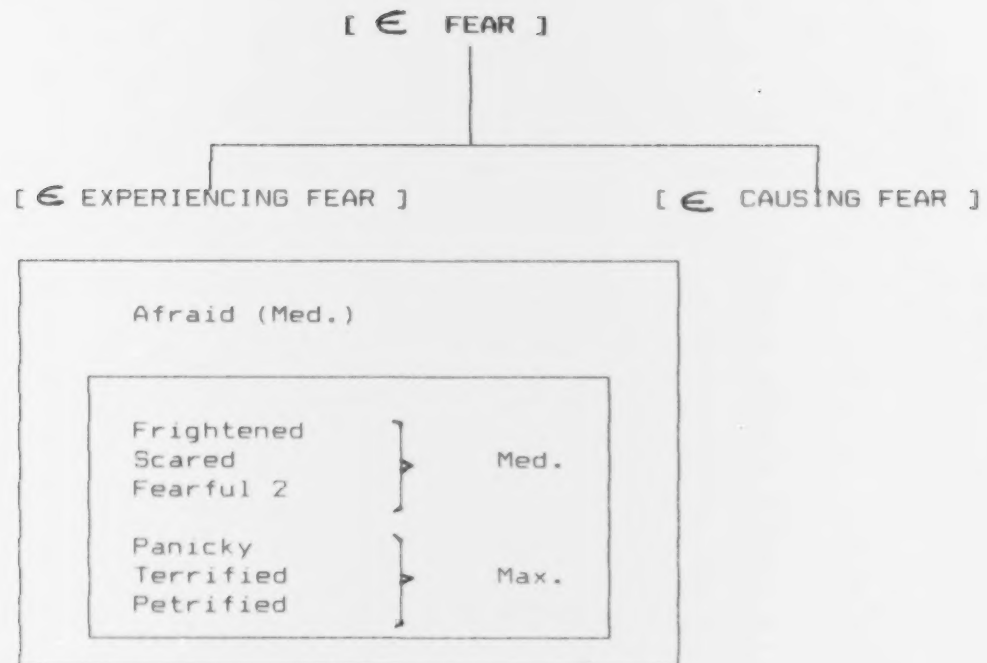
def= AFRAID (A) ...

(y1: <Degree n: Maximum a> (y2)) Manner

(y2: <paralysis> (y2)) Result

Pos.: Predicative. Reg.: Normal. Freq.: 2.

FIGURE:



6.- Creation, description and inclusion of an axiological formula within the lexicographical definition of each lexical item. (The dimension chosen in this paper will be used as sample)

As our ultimate objective is the experimental inclusion of what we conceive as an axiological classeme, we have created a new set of terms to describe and dissect its main components. A profound study of how axiology and lexical units have been investigated in various disciplines, the careful study of the relevant features of the affected units and a considerable amount of critical intuition have furnished us with the necessary instruments to bring about the innovations propounded.

COMPONENTS OF THE AXIOLOGICAL CLASSEME:

CONSTANT ARCHIAXIOEMES: (They are always present) Positive (+), Negative (-), Neuter (0), Others (++), (--), (-+), (+-).

VARIABLE OR CANONICAL ARCHIAXIOEMES (They appear according to the canon affected, (Cf. Martin Mingorance 1985:334-36, 1987:381). Further explanations will be provided below) Good 1 - Bad 1 = Descriptive/Generic evaluation . Good 2 - Bad 2 = General behavioural evaluation. Good 3 - Bad 3 = Ethical behavioural evaluation. Good 4 - Bad 4 = Pragmatic /functional /adequative evaluation. Pleasant 1 - Unpleasant 1 = Hedonic/emotive evaluation. Pleasant 2 - Unpleasant 2 = Aesthetic evaluation, etc.

AXIOEMES OF GRADE: (They only appear if they are relevant) Maximum - High - Medium - Low.

AXIOEMES OF STYLE: (They only appear if they are relevant) Phasic or Stratic.

CANONS AFFECTED:

HYPERCANONS: Sociocultural (It encompasses most of the other canons). Sensitive (It exerts a considerable influence on most emotive lexical fields and dimensions).

HYPOCANONS:

1. Affecting the lexical fields related to psychophysical phenomena (emotions-feelings-aesthetics): Bio-sensitive, Sensor-emotive, Aesthetic, Bio-aesthetic.
2. Affecting the attitudinal/behavioural lexical fields: Apart from the sociocultural hypercanon, we have some specialised hypocanons, such as Ethical, Social, Normal, Noetic (in part), Adequative (in part), etc.
3. Affecting the intellectual evaluation lexical field: Noetic.
4. Affecting the truth value lexical field: Veritative.
5. Affecting the significance lexical field: Prominent.
6. Affecting the "practical" lexical fields: Pragmatic-functional, Material, Adequative.

Once the main components of the axiological classeme have been described, we shall now proceed with the insertion of the axiological formula in each lexical unit of the dimension selected. We include another dimension to show how diverse the components are.

DIMENSION [€ FEAR] C [€ EMOTION]

SUBDIMENSION [€ EXPERIENCING FEAR]

AFRAID (A) Ev = Negative (-) [Unpleasant 1 € Sensor-emotive + Degree (Medium)]

SCARED (A) Ev = Negative (-) [Unpleasant 1 € Sensor-emotive + Degree (Medium)]

FEARFUL (A) Ev = Negative (-) [Unpleasant 1 € Sensor-

emotive + Degree (Medium)]

FRIGHTENED (A) Ev = Negative (-) [Unpleasant 1 € Sensore-
emotive + Degree (Medium)]

PANICKY (A) Ev = Negative (-) [Unpleasant 1 € Sensore-
emotive + Degree (Maximum) + Stratic

Reg.: Informal]

TERRIFIED (A) Ev = Negative (-) [Unpleasant 1 € Sensore-
emotive + Degree (Maximum)]

PETRIFIED (A) Ev = Negative (-) [Unpleasant 1 € Sensore-
emotive + Degree (Maximum)]

DIMENSION [€ TOWARD EXPENSE] C [€ ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOUR]

SUBDIMENSION [€ SPENDING A LOT]

GROUP: [€ + UNSELFISHLY] C [€ SPENDING A LOT]

GENEROUS (A) Ev = Positive (+) [Good 3 € Ethical +
Degree (Medium)]

LIBERAL 2 (A) Ev = Positive (+) [Good 3 € Ethical +
Degree (Medium)]

UNSPARING (A) Ev = Positive (+) [Good 3 € Ethical +
Degree (High)]

MUNIFICENT (A) Ev = Positive (+) [Good 3 € Ethical +
Degree (High)]

LAVISH (A) Ev = Positive (+) [Good 3 € Ethical + Degree
(High)]

GROUP: [€ + CARELESSLY] C [€ SPENDING A LOT]

WASTEFUL (A) Ev = Negative (-) [Bad 3 € Ethical +
Degree (High)]

IMPROVIDENT (A) Ev = Negative (-) [Bad 3 € Ethical +
Degree (High)]

PRODIGAL (A) Ev = Negative (-) [Bad 3 € Ethical +
Degree (High) + Phasic Reg. (Emotive)]

PROFLIGATE (A) Ev = Negative (-) [Bad 3 € Ethical +
Degree (Maximum)]

EXTRAVAGANT 2 (A) Ev = Negative (-) [Bad 3 € Ethical +
Degree (Maximum) + Phasic Reg.
(Emotive)]

SPENDTHRIFT (A) Ev = Negative (-) [Bad 3 € Ethical +
Degree (Maximum) + Phasic Reg. (Emotive)]

7.- Concluding remarks:

In the course of the present paper we have endeavoured to convey three basic but crucial ideas: On the one hand, the development of a neglected but essential area of linguistics, classematics, by means of the careful analysis of a pragmatic classeme, evaluation.. On the other hand, the creation, decomposition, description, and inclusion of an axiological formula within the lexicographical definitions of each lexical unit in onomasiological or semasiological dictionaries, providing valuable cultural and pragmatic information for a better

description of lexical items.

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